

The Department of Justice is the arbiter of what is the law of the land for this country. And I think the American people have a right to know if their government has sought to redefine "torture" as "not torture." Accordingly, I urge the Attorney General to release the full texts of all the memos relating to interrogation and detention policies and practices.

HONORING WILLIAM J. KOWALSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring William J. Kowalski as he retires from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on August 1st.

William "Bill" Kowalski became a Special Agent in May 1983 after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit in 1979 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1982. After taking the oath of office he trained at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia and began his Bureau career by returning to his hometown of Detroit.

After serving tours of duty in Memphis and New York City, Bill was promoted to a supervisory position at FBI Headquarters in 1989. In this capacity he was responsible for counter-intelligence and espionage investigations throughout the United States. He was one of the first FBI Agents to travel to Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Returning to Detroit, Bill became a Field Supervisor in the Detroit Division in August, 1992. He assumed supervisory responsibilities in Flint and Ann Arbor. In September 2004 he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, overseeing the FBI Detroit's Joint Terrorism Task Force, with counter-terrorism investigation jurisdiction in the state of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise and join me in applauding the exemplary work of William J. Kowalski. He has been a dedicated public servant, working to ensure the safety of the United States and its citizens for many, many years. I have appreciated his insight, his thoughtfulness and his commitment to performing his work and I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING STOP CHILD ABUSE
NOW OF VIRGINIA ON ITS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of SCAN Virginia—Stop Child Abuse Now—and congratulate this fine organization for 20 years of change in children's lives.

Twenty years ago, in 1988, a group of Alexandria citizens concerned about abused and neglected children in Northern Virginia came together to plan ways to prevent child abuse.

As a result, David Cleary founded Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit organization to prevent child abuse and neglect and became affiliated with the State organization now called Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.

The first program offered at SCAN was the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program that now is the Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program. CASA now serves more children and engages up to 75 volunteers at a time to give voice to the needs and priorities of abused or neglected children, one child at a time.

SCAN works collaboratively with the Arlington and Alexandria Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts to mold a CASA Program that provides helpful information to the Juvenile Judges who make determinations on the futures of abused and neglected children, while SCAN's CASA volunteers provide an independent voice that focuses solely on the best interest of the children.

SCAN's Parent Education Program has a continuum of services that range from intensive parenting classes, weekly educational parent support groups and developmental playgroups—all offered in English and Spanish. SCAN also offers a tri-annual Parent Connection Resource Guide, a publication that gives critical information about region-wide parenting classes, support groups, playgroups and other resources available to parents in Northern Virginia.

The Allies in Prevention Coalition, which is made up of child welfare professionals from the five major Northern Virginia jurisdictions, is a central part of SCAN's Public Education Program, as is SCAN's website: www.scanva.org. SCAN's Allies in Prevention Coalition engages child and family advocates in communicating regional messages to prevent child abuse and promote children's well-being in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no higher calling than to help children in need. Please join me in commending SCAN of Northern Virginia as it celebrates twenty years of serving children and families in Northern Virginia through programs and services that keep children safe, strengthen parenting skills and provide advocacy in the courts, legislature and the community.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. Roybal-Allard. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. I thank Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this important legislation to the House floor today.

I am certain that all of my colleagues have heard from constituents about the devastating effect the foreclosure crisis has had on their families and communities. The problem is particularly acute in my home state of California, which has the second-highest foreclosure rate in the Nation. Recent data has shown that the problem is getting worse. In the last three months, foreclosures in California have jumped 33.5 percent from the previous period.

To help my constituents confront this crisis, I recently held a foreclosure prevention workshop in my district. The turnout was enormous—nearly 500 members of our community attended the workshop, where national banks, HUD, and other intermediaries provided one-on-one housing counseling, and information on viable options for preventing foreclosure.

We know that the overwhelming turnout at the event was not an anomaly—I have heard from many of my colleagues that they too have experienced record turnouts at events they have hosted to help their own constituents.

At the workshop I heard from numerous participants who were concerned that Congress was not doing enough to address the crisis.

I am gratified that today we can go back to our constituents and assure them that Congress has taken action to help address this crisis by passing the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act. H.R. 3221 represents a solid step forward in our efforts to confront the mortgage crisis.

The measure will expand the FHA program so that many homeowners at risk of facing foreclosure can refinance into viable mortgages that are government-insured. This will help many families facing ballooning mortgage payments to get their finances back on track and keep their homes.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation will increase the conforming loan limit for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac backed loans to \$625,000 in high-cost areas such as California. The current limit is far too low to make a meaningful impact in the Los Angeles area, where the average cost of a home is far above the national average.

The \$4 billion in Community Development Block Grant funds made available to states and localities to purchase foreclosed properties is also a critical component of the package. Vacant, foreclosed properties exacerbate the crisis by lowering the values of surrounding homes and neighborhoods.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation to help families keep their homes and protect their communities.

REMEMBERING THE U.N. SAFE
HAVEN OF ZEPA, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, last Friday, July 25, marked the 13th anniversary of the 1995 fall of Zepa, a United Nations-declared "safe haven" in eastern Bosnia, to the Army of Republika Srpska. I rise to commemorate the fall of Zepa today on behalf of the thousands of Bosnian Americans who live in my District, the First District of Iowa.

Zepa was a village in eastern Bosnia declared a "safe haven" in a May 1993 U.N. Security Council Resolution. This declaration was supposed to guarantee the safety of its population, but the siege of Zepa began in the summer of 1992 and lasted until the fall of the enclave in July 1995. Throughout this period, the population suffered from continuous shelling and starvation, and many Zepa residents and refugees from surrounding areas perished